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**LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of

**The Medical Officer of Health**

and of

**The Sanitary Inspector**

for the Year

**1953**

**H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.**

*Medical Officer of Health*

**M. S. LESLIE, M.R.San.I., R.S.A. (Scot).**

*Sanitary Inspector*





## To the Chairman and Members of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District for the year 1953.

The vital statistics for the year indicate that the birth rate for the District remains higher than the national average and than that for the surrounding Rural Districts. The death rate, however, is practically the same as that for the surrounding Districts and considerably lower than the national average. This would suggest a considerable increase in the population, whereas the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for the year shows a decrease on last year's figure. We must, therefore, conclude a considerable loss of population from the District by migration. The infant death rate was, unfortunately, high during the year, but the average figure for the last five years compares favourably with that for the rest of the County and is below the level of the national average. I consider, therefore, that this high figure need not cause alarm, as in a small population wide fluctuations in statistics are to be expected. The still birth rate continues to be rather higher than the national average, but it is slightly less than it was last year. I am not in a position to offer an explanation for this.

The incidence of infectious disease was generally rather high during the year, particularly the rates for notification of Whooping Cough, Measles and Pneumonia. There were two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in children of school age. Both cases had some paralysis, although they are now making a satisfactory recovery.

The tuberculosis death rate still continues to fall in spite of the rather large number of cases on the register.

As in previous years, housing remains the chief problem in public health, but the lack of a main sewerage system in the northern part of the District, where a considerable amount of housing development is taking place, necessitates the consideration of the problem of sewerage extensions and enlargements of the already overloaded sewage disposal works.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council and the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

1st July, 1954.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1953

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## 1.—OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health:* H. S. Bury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector:* M. S. Leslie, M.R.San.I., Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.)

*Meat Inspector:* Capt. W. A. Gibbs, M.R.C.V.S.

## 2.—GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

	1933	1943	1953
Area in Acres ... ..	2487	2487	2487
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	7106	7474	9180
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book ... ..	2000	2185	2878
Rateable Value at end of December, 1952 ... ..	£37,367	£40,612	£53,132
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£145	£164	£202

## 3.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Urban District is a fairly compact one of 2,487 acres, from which the roads radiate in three main directions to a large farming area. The town is an important agricultural centre and during and since the war years the Ministry of Food has used the market as a centre for the collection, slaughter and distribution of livestock. In addition to the cattle market, there is a chartered market held weekly which occupies a considerable part of the High Street. This very wide street is a feature of the town and, along with Market Square, constitutes the main Banking and Commercial Area.

The post-war residential development has for some time clung to the northern part of the town, with the industrial development in the south. There are two areas of land in the southern half, however, which have been earmarked for future housing development, which will help to create a more balanced community.

Sand quarrying and a number of associated works engaged in the manufacture of roofing and floor tiles and concrete products, still remain the chief industries of the town. Light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing and stationery, employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts.

It would benefit Leighton Buzzard greatly if more diverse industries could be attracted into the town.

Sport and recreation are provided by privately-owned grounds in the southern part of the Town, with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls. Pleasure grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation and certain areas have been planned for extension. The new Housing Estate also has a playground in close proximity to the shopping area.



#### 4.—VITAL STATISTICS

##### LIVE BIRTHS

						Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	103	82	185
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
						—	—	—
					Total ...	108	86	194
						—	—	—

Crude Birth Rate: 21.1 per 1,000 home population.

Comparable Birth Rate: 20.3 per 1,000 home population.

(The comparability factor for the District being .96).

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 19.10 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 15.0 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for England and Wales: 15.5 per 1,000 home population.

##### STILL BIRTHS

						Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
						—	—	—
					Total ...	4	1	5
						—	—	—

Still Birth Rate: 25.1 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 26.8 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 22.7 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for England and Wales: 22.4 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

##### DEATHS

						Male	Female	Total
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	...	...	25	32	57
Transferred into District	...	...	...	...	...	28	14	42
Transferred from District	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
						—	—	—
					Total ...	51	43	94
						—	—	—

Crude Death Rate: 10.2 per 1,000 home population.

Comparable Death Rate: 9.2 per 1,000 home population.

(The comparability factor for the District being .91).

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 7.19 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 9.7 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for England and Wales: 11.4 per 1,000 home population.

##### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

						Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
						—	—	—
					Total ...	5	2	7
						—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate: 36.1 per 1,000 related live births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 24.3 per 1,000 related live births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 24.5 per 1,000 related live births.

Rate for England and Wales: 26.8 per 1,000 related live births.

## DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality: Nil per 1,000 live births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 1.2 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 0.20 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for England and Wales: 0.76 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

### PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		Over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...			1				1	—
2 Tuberculosis, other ...							—	—
3 Syphilitic disease ...					1		—	1
4 Diphtheria ...							—	—
5 Whooping Cough ...							—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ...							—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...							—	—
8 Measles ...							—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases							—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...					1		—	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus			1		1		2	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...							—	—
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...							—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...			2	1	2	2	4	3
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...							—	—
16 Diabetes ...							—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system			1		4	9	5	9
18 Coronary disease, angina ...			4		3	2	7	2
19 Hypertension, with heart disease			1		1	1	2	1
20 Other heart disease... ..				1	8	10	8	11
21 Other circulatory disease ...	1		1	1	2	3	4	4
22 Influenza ... ..				1		2	—	3
23 Pneumonia ... ..						3	—	3
24 Bronchitis ... ..	1		1		1	1	3	1
25 Other diseases of respiratory system							—	—
26 Ulcer stomach and duodenum ...					1		1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea							—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..							—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..					2		2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...							—	—
31 Congenital malformations ... ..							—	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1		1	4		6	2
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..							—	—
34 All other accidents ... ..		1	2			1	2	2
35 Suicide ... ..			3				3	—
36 Homicide and operations of war...	1						1	—
All Causes	5	2	17	5	29	36	51	43



CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS						
Cause						Number
Prematurity—	Prematurity	...	...	...	...	3
	Haemolytic Disease	...	...	...	...	1
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1
	Accident	...	...	...	...	1
	Infanticide	...	...	...	...	1
						—
						7
						—

## 5.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

*Provided by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board*

### GENERAL HOSPITALS:

The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks.  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

*Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board*

### GENERAL HOSPITALS:

Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton, Beds.  
St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton, Beds.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS:

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.  
Isolation Unit (Aylesbury Isolation Hospital) Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

### CHEST CLINICS (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis):

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.  
St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton.

### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC: Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

The Clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday (Saturday, 8—12 noon) for both males and females. A doctor is in attendance on Monday and Friday from 2—8 p.m.

*Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service*

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY: Town Hall, Luton.

*Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council*

### AMBULANCE SERVICE:

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to Isolation Hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

AMPTHILL, Claridges Lane. Telephone: Ampthill 3333.

BEDFORD, Newnham Avenue. Telephone: Bedford 4875.

BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone: Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street, North. Telephone: Dunstable 761.

LINSLADE, 10 New Road (Bucks. C.C.).

Telephone: Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, 42 Church Street. Telephone: Luton 4600.

RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association.

Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvise Road. Telephone: Rushden 403.

## DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

*Administered by the Southern Divisional Health Committee*

Nurse Curry, S.R.N., 187 Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 2332.

Nurse D. M. Simmons, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3269.

Nurse Friedlander, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3269.

## HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

There is one Health Visitor in the District:

Miss D. Northam, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Woodbine Cottage, Eggington,

Beds. Tel.: Hockliffe 258.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

*Organiser:* Miss K. Kelly, Health Centre, Kingsway, Dunstable.

## INFANT WELFARE CENTRE:

Grovebury Road, every Friday, 2—4 p.m.

Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

## ANTE-NATAL CLINIC:

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

## SCHOOL CLINICS:

1 Grovebury Road,	Dental	1 session weekly
Leighton Buzzard	Minor Ailments	2 sessions weekly
The Health Centre,	Child Guidance	1 session weekly
Kingsway,	Dental	Sessions as required
Dunstable	Minor Ailments	2 sessions weekly
	Speech Therapy	3 sessions weekly
	Sunlight	When specially arranged

## 6.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### (a) WATER SUPPLY

Source: The town is supplied with water from three boreholes sunk into the greensand to a depth of 250 feet approximately at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road.



Distribution: The water, after treament consisting of aeration, lime injection, sedimentation and filtration, is pumped by means of a booster pump of 250,000 gallons per hour capacity, to the reservoir in Shenley Hill Road, and thence to the town's distribution mains. The purity of the supply is controlled by routine sampling from the source and from various points throughout the distribution system.

The following are typical results of Chemical and Bacteriological examinations.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (In parts per million)

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	Trace
Colour	...	...	...	Nil	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate			136
pH	...	...	...	7.7	Carbonate	...	...	136
Chlorine as Chloride	...	...	...	26	Non Carbonate	...	...	70
Hardness (total)	...	...	...	206	Manganese	...	...	Nil
Metals: Iron	...	...	...	0.35	Other metals	...	...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Probable number of Coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.: Nil.  
 Probable number of faecal coli per 100 m.l.: Nil.  
 Remarks: Highly satisfactory.

POPULATION SUPPLIED

	No. of Houses	Population
Direct to houses	2,866	9,142
From stand pipes	12	38

RAINFALL

The Station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain gauge is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52 deg. 1 min. N. Longitude 0 deg. 35 min. W.

1952		Monthly Total	No. of Days with .01" or more	RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS		
		Total		Year	Woburn	England and Wales
January	...	1.16	13	1942	19.49	35.9
February	...	1.62	11	1943	19.09	33.4
March	...	0.62	7	1944	22.33	35.3
April	...	2.34	13	1945	20.65	33.27
May	...	1.64	11	1946	28.24	41.6
June	...	1.92	15	1947	18.46	35.23
July	...	2.97	20	1948	28.36	37.62
August	...	3.11	11	1949	20.28	30.9
September	...	1.41	11	1950	30.37	40.2
October	...	2.13	15	1951	30.56	43.7
November	...	1.31	10	1952	26.21	35.5
December	...	0.58	13	1953	20.81	35.2
TOTAL	...	20.81	150			

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above information.

## (b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

### AREA SEWERED

Large residential and industrial areas within the district are without main drainage. The northern portion of the town is drained by gravitation direct to the sewage disposal works, and the southern portion of the town drains to the new pumping station near Chain Bridge and the new ejector and compressor station at Bridge Street.

EXTENSIONS DURING THE YEAR: Nil.

### DISPOSAL WORKS

The outfall sewer at the Sewage Disposal Works discharges into two screening chambers with manually operated screens.

The sewage is treated by means of two continuous flow settling tanks, three 74ft. diameter clinker filters, two humus tanks and a chlorinating plant at the entrance to the works.

The plant is very much overloaded and various schemes have been considered by the Council for improving the position.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of Middens	...	...	...	Nil
Earth Closets	...	...	...	Nil
Pails	...	...	...	52
W.C. connected to sewer	...	...	...	2,686
W.C. connected to cesspools	...	...	...	190

### PUBLIC LAVATORIES

There is only one public lavatory in the town. There is an urgent need for a larger and more up-to-date building, but the siting of such a building presents difficulties.

## (c) SCAVENGING

### COLLECTION OF REFUSE

Every endeavour is made to collect refuse weekly from every household in the district. Collection is carried out by Council's staff with a covered motor vehicle, and trade refuse is collected on application at a charge of ninepence per dustbin. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping, which has been in operation since 1935.

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council arrange with the Luton Rural District Council for the emptying of cesspools only on the request of the owner or occupier and two free



emptyings are allowed per year. It is unfortunate that the best and almost only available building land is in those parts of the district where main drainage is not available and thus we find a situation where the most modern of houses are in turn connected to a most antiquated system of drainage.

(d) SMOKE ABATEMENT: Nil.

(e) OFFENSIVE TRADES: Nil.

(f) SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

There is a swimming pool situated in the grounds of the Cedars School, for the use of the pupils and members of the staff. Pupils from the Secondary Modern Schools are also allowed to use the pool.

(g) MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

There is a mortuary within the Cemetery grounds with accommodation for twelve bodies.

(h) RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the Urban area are the Ousel and Clipstone Brook. They have in the past been subject to serious flooding during heavy storms, but it is hoped that the recent drainage schemes completed by the Great Ouse Catchment Board will prevent flooding in the future. The River Ousel adjoins the sewage works and receives the outfall effluent. Recent samples taken from the river have indicated that efforts will have to be made as soon as circumstances permit to produce an outfall effluent of a higher standard.

#### CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

	Granted	Refused
1. Licences to allow land to be used as a site for moveable dwellings ... ..	2	Nil
2. Licences to erect, station or use moveable dwellings ...	6	1

#### PEST CONTROL. RATS AND MICE

The Council employ an experienced Rodent Officer whose services are also shared by the Linslade Urban District Council in accordance with the arrangements agreed to by the Ministry of Food, when Leighton Buzzard and Linslade formed a Workable Area Committee for the purpose of organising and dealing with the survey and destruction work in the two districts.

Strict supervision has been maintained over the district, and frequent inspections have been made of areas which are more liable to become infested, and as a result of these investigations, destruction work was carried out to properties, which are summarised below:—

Dwelling Houses ... ..	341
Factories ... ..	10
Sewage Works ... ..	6
Refuse Tip ... ..	8
Others ... ..	57

During the year, one routine treatment was carried out to the sewers in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS, 1871-1928

Number of licences issued to store petroleum ...	39
Total storage capacity ... ..	33,600 gallons
Fees collected ... ..	£24 15s. 0d.

Inspections are carried out periodically to all storage premises. New installations consist of chambers of either 9in. brickwork or concrete with tanks of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. steel plate, which are subjected to a test pressure of 10 lbs. per square inch. No steps have been taken as yet to test underground tanks which have been installed for at least 15 years.

#### 7.—HOUSING

Throughout the year the gradual elimination of several insanitary and unfit houses has taken place. Nos. 8c, 8d, 23 and 13a Market Square were closed. The temporary occupation licence in respect of No. 54 Bassett Road was not renewed in order to facilitate the demolition of the remaining houses in the terrace. The temporary occupation licences in respect of Nos. 83 and 85 Vandyke Road were also not renewed consequent upon the re-housing of the tenants by the Council and these houses have since been demolished. No. 33 Lake Street has also been demolished, and at the latter end of the year, Nos. 10 Hockliffe Street and 2a Grove Road and Nos. 26 and 28 Billington Road were represented as unfit for human habitation. As a result of the Government's new Housing Bill, the Council intend to speed up slum clearance work and already the initial steps have been taken to acquire land for re-housing operations. Other Local Authority building has been proceeded with meanwhile, and the following is the number and type of pre-war and post-war houses built by the Council up to the end of 1953:—

	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Flats	Total
Pre-war Council Houses ... ..	4	156	10	—	170
Post-war Council Houses:					
1. Temporary Bungalows ... ..	31	—	—	—	31
2. Garden Hedge Estate ... ..	—	88	5	16	109
3. Clarence Road Estate:					
(a) Aluminium Bungalows	100	—	—	—	100
(b) Traditional Houses ... ..	30	170	8	16	224
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows	8	—	—	—	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	173	414	23	32	642
	—	—	—	—	—

### HOUSING STATISTICS

#### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	224
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	312
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	18



(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	23
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	5

## 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	3
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## 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

### A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	7
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

### C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1

### D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	4
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

Total number of traditional new houses and flats erected and completed in 1953 classified as follows:—

By the Local Authority ... ..	28
By private enterprise ... ..	23
Others ... ..	19

## 8.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

There are 20 Milk Distributors and six Dairy premises registered in the Urban District. Inspections throughout the year has ensured that they are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Fifteen retail dealers' licences were granted to distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, of which seven were for tuberculin tested milk and eight for pasteurised milk.

Only a small proportion of ungraded milk is being sold within this area.

Twenty-nine samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

### ICE CREAM

Five premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, which has increased the number of registered premises to 36.

There is only one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Twenty-eight samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and according to the present system of grading, 25 were in Grade I, 3 in Grade II, none in Grade III and none in Grade IV.

### FOOD PREMISES

Restaurants, shops, stalls and all registered premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale are regularly inspected and steps taken to ensure that the premises are maintained in a clean condition and in accordance with the Clean Food Byelaws.

The following articles of food from various premises were examined, found to be unsound, surrendered by the Vendors, and destroyed:—

5 lbs. 8 ozs. tinned Ham	10 lbs. 7 ozs. tinned Fish
144 lbs. 8 ozs. tinned Meats	42 lbs. of Meat
215 lbs. 6 ozs. tinned Vegetables	119 tins of Milk
85 lbs. 15 ozs. tinned Fruit	18 lbs. 6 ozs. of Pork

### LICENSED PREMISES

A survey of licensed premises in the district was carried out to ascertain the position with regard to the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for the use of persons frequenting the premises and the arrangements for glass washing. The majority of the premises were of a low standard, but many improvements have since been made. There still remains much to be done, however, in this direction.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The slaughterhouse, which is a private one, was taken over by the Ministry in 1940. Meat inspection is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon, who is employed part-time by the Local Authority. Reference has been made in previous reports to the unsuitable siting of the premises, and representations have been made to the Ministry that Leighton Buzzard should be retained as a centre for the collection and distribution of livestock and meat, and that for that purpose, the Planning Authority has been asked to designate an area as a suitable site for a new slaughterhouse.



The following is the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during 1953:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected ...	1296	402	2780	1216	5694
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses condemned ... ..	2	—	2	2	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	206	7	23	32	268
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	16.04%	1.74%	0.88%	2.79%	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses condemned ... ..	6	—	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	61	—	2	7	70
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	5.16%	—	0.07%	0.57%	1.5%

## 9.—LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

### ADOPTIVE ACTS

Public Health Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II adopted. Part VI adopted.

Part VII, Section 81 adopted only.

Public Health Act, 1925.

The whole adopted, with the exception of Section 22.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Section 1 adopted.

### BYELAWS

Building Byelaws.

Byelaws for New Streets.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.

In accordance with circular 1/54 Ministry of Health, the following is a list of the Committees which are concerned with matters of public health:—

Public Health Parks and Allotments Committee.

Public Works Committee.

Housing Committee.

## 10.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year under review the incidence of Whooping Cough and Measles were high. This was to be expected after the low incidence in previous years. Fortunately, the disease was, on the whole, mild and no deaths occurred.





## DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS

This District ... ..	0.11 per 1,000 of the population.
Bedfordshire ... ..	0.17 per 1,000 of the population.
England and Wales ... ..	0.20 per 1,000 of the population.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the district during the year. Their findings are set out in the table below.

	Number X-rayed			Further investigation	No further action	non-T.B. infection of lungs	Tuberculosis		
	Males	Females	Total				Primary inactive	Post Primary active	Post Primary inactive
Firms ... ..	642	578	1,220	10	—	1	—	4	5
General Public ... ..	453	692	1,145	17	2	2	1	6	6
Schools (14 plus) ... ..	139	146	285	1	—	—	1	—	—

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the district is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

### IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	At Schools and Clinics		By General Practitioners	Total
Primary Course ... ..	...	...	103	50
Boosters ... ..	...	...	145	41

### IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Number of children completely protected on December 31st, 1953 ( <i>i.e.</i> , have received a Primary Course or Booster injection since January 1st, 1949) ... ..	22	561	596	390	1569
Number of children partially protected ( <i>i.e.</i> , have been immunised, but have not received inoculation since January 1st, 1949) ... ..	—	—	66	66	132
Total number of children immunised at any time ... ..	22	561	662	456	1701

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	At Schools and Clinics	By General Practitioners
Primary ... ..	—	84
Re-vaccination ... ..	—	19

## SCABIES

By arrangement with the County Council, infected persons are treated at the Health Centre, Kingsway, Dunstable. The number so treated during the year was nil.







